

Today's News - Wednesday, June 3, 2009

- Ireland to slim down policy on architecture (but there will be a built environment research committee).
- Gehl revisits Perth after 15 years and finds that while the city has made progress, it still needs a "personality transplant."
- Battle still brewing over plans to demolish Gropius-designed complex in Chicago, and a call for the International Olympic Committee to change its policies so historic preservation is more of a focus.
- Arup on board with Clinton Climate Initiative to help major cities develop tailor-made carbon reduction programs.
- Rosenbaum finds much to admire about Piano's Modern Wing, but it also leaves much to be desired.
- Dillon gives (mostly) thumbs-up to new Dallas Cowboys stadium, "No retro camouflage. No cheap nostalgia...easily the best of the current crop."
- Moore on Alsop's Chips in Manchester: the beginnings of "a distinctive place in an area which could still feel like a big heap of nothingness."
- San Diego Convention Center expansion has grand plans that will lead to the water.
- Q&A with Mada Spam's Qingyun Ma: "In China, I enjoy the changes in and about design. In US, I enjoy the resistance to any change."
- A conversation with the architect of 2010 Shanghai World Fair Macau pavilion - an "environmentally friendly bunny."
- A Houston developer launches website to sell blueprints of sustainable, contemporary homes (by real architects!). - An eyeful of Shankar's Jugaad pavilion in Delhi, made of 692 discarded oil cans (amazing!).
- Good neighbors: a media mogul and a fashion designer donate a \$10 million matching grant to the High Line.
- The Hungarian architect who left his mark on Shanghai.
- London "architect" exposed as fake - again.
- Request for Qualifications: Dudley Square Municipal Office Facility in Boston.
- Call for entries: Brick-stainable: Re-Thinking Brick.
- Two we couldn't resist: 31 pianos to be "plonked" around London to "encourage people to gather for a singsong with strangers."
- Vote for America's Best Public Restroom (there are some stunners!).

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Government slims down policy on architecture: ...in deference to concerns in the Department of Finance that the policy would cost too much...policy highlights the role of the State in promoting architectural quality...also aims to promote public awareness of architecture in primary and secondary schools and third-level institutions, as well as engaging the public... By Frank McDonald - Irish Times

Renowned architect says Perth needs 'personality transplant' at night, more life and more pedestrian areas: Jan Gehl is back in Perth, 15 years after he was first commissioned to undertake a study into public spaces and public life in the capital...has come a long way toward becoming a more attractive and vibrant city since his first study... - PerthNow (Australia)

An Olympic Battle: Chicago Targets Walter Gropius-Designed Complex: ...intends to send 28 structures on the South Side Michael Reese Hospital campus to a landfill..."The International Olympic Committee needs to change its policies so historic preservation is more of a focus"... - Preservation magazine

Arup and Bill Clinton join forces to fight climate change: British engineer is to help the former US president's charity to advise major cities on reducing carbon output... Toronto will be the first city to take part... - Building (UK)

A Modern Wing Takes Flight: There is much to admire about the new Modern Wing...But it leaves much to be desired in terms of audience-friendly, art-enhancing design...perhaps the greatest benefit of the expansion is the space that it frees up elsewhere for other departments. By Lee Rosenbaum -- Renzo Piano [images, link] - Wall Street Journal

New Cowboys Stadium has grand design, but discipline isn't compromised: ...a fluid contemporary design that belongs to its own time. No retro camouflage...No cheap nostalgia...easily the best of the current crop...a piece of serious architecture in the middle of an architectural wasteland... By David Dillon -- HKS - Dallas Morning News

Chips, New Islington, Manchester, by Alsop Architects: Urban Splash...has begun to create a distinctive place in an area which could still feel like a big heap of nothingness...But there is also...a gap between image and reality, between idea and realisation, between promise and achievement. By Rowan Moore -- FAT; de Metz Forbes Knight; Grant Associates [images] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Convention Center design includes more space and pedestrian bridge: ...would add nearly 400,000 square feet...a main concern was opening better access to the bay and enlivening the bayfront walkway... -- Tucker Sadler [images] - San Diego Union-Tribune

Architecture profile: Mada Spam, Shanghai: Q&A with Qingyun Ma: "In China, I enjoy the changes in and about design. In US, I enjoy the resistance to any change." [slide show] - Wallpaper*

2010 Shanghai World Fair Macau pavilion to shine light on past, present and future: ...will be a rabbit lantern shaped structure...[an] environmentally friendly bunny... -- Carlos Marreiros - Macau Daily Times

Blueprints with a sustainable vision: With the help of some renowned architects, the Houston developer and builder is making lots of little plans...launching Hometta.com...selling blueprints by mail...for homes that are edgy, sustainable or both. - Doug Garofalo; Zoka Zola; Sean Lally/Weathers - Chicago Tribune

Jugaad pavilion in Delhi: 692 discarded oil cans make up the Jugaad pavilion in Delhi by artist and designer Sanjeev Shankar...has now been dismantled, but plans are being discussed to give it a permanent site. [images] - Icon magazine (UK)

\$10 Million Donated to High Line Project: ...media mogul Barry Diller and his wife, the fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg have made a \$10 million challenge grant to the former elevated railway along the Hudson River that is being converted into a landscaped walkway. -- Field Operations; Diller Scofidio & Renfro - New York Times

The Hungarian Connection: One Architect's Path to Shanghai: Still an imposing presence 75 years later, the hotel is just one of more than 65 Shanghai buildings -- many of them city landmarks, in a rich variety of styles -- designed by László Ede Hudec. [images, links] - Wall Street Journal

London 'architect' exposed as fake - again: David Grant of Inspire Design, East London has again been fined for misusing the title 'architect' [links] - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ): Dudley Square Municipal Office Facility, Boston; deadline: June 25 - Boston Redevelopment Authority

[Call for entries: Brick-stainable: Re-Thinking Brick: design competition seeking integrative solutions for a building using clay masonry units as a primary material; cash prizes; registration deadline: September 15- Potomac Valley Brick](#)

[Play it again, Boris Johnson. Give us a kerbside singsong: ...31 pianos are to be plonked around the capital to encourage people to gather for a singsong with strangers..."Our projects are about increasing a sense of public spirit".... - The Times \(UK\)](#)

[Ten Finalists Chosen In America's Best Public Restroom Contest: The public is invited to vote online through July 31 \[images\]- Cintas](#)

[WORDS THAT BUILD: Translate Images Into Touching Performances: Tip#15: Cultivate communication with clients that translates architectural imagery into experience at their fingertips. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow](#)



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